



# SIERRA CLUB

## MAINE CHAPTER

PO Box 3760  
Portland, ME 04104  
Phone: (207) 761-5616  
[www.sierraclub.org/maine](http://www.sierraclub.org/maine)

To: Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs  
From: Andrew Blunt, Sierra Club Maine  
Date: April 23, 2025  
Re: **Testimony in Support of L.D. 1433: Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program**

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Dear Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and Members of the Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs,,

I write on behalf of the Sierra Club Maine Chapter, representing over 22,000 supporters and members statewide. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our 3.8 million members nationwide as we work towards combating climate change and promoting a just and sustainable economy. To that end, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1433.

L.D. 1433 establishes the Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program to engage students in the study and improvement of Maine's working waterfront infrastructure. This first iteration of the program would enable ten students to conduct vulnerability assessments and other analyses of working waterfront infrastructure threatened by extreme weather.

This bill clearly meets the moment for Maine's working waterfronts. Year after year our coastline is threatened as infrastructure continues to age and coastal storms build in strength. Often, the work needed to assess coastal infrastructure vulnerabilities is performed by expensive consultancies that small coastal towns cannot afford..

Meanwhile, we're sitting on an excellent resource: Maine engineering students. Maine's universities offer excellent technical training in engineering disciplines, and connecting students to such a highly-topical, public-service oriented training opportunity is a no-brainer. Working waterfront resiliency is one of the largest challenges facing our state's coastal economy, and this program offers a win-win opportunity for both students and coastal communities.

For the above reasons, we urge an 'Ought to Pass' vote on L.D. 1433.

Sincerely,

Andrew Blunt  
Sierra Club Maine Chapter  
Legislative and Political Strategist